

THE LOWER PARISH OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, VA.
WITH ADJOINING PORTIONS OF NORFOLK COUNTY.

Scale 1:31680

ELIZABETH CITY SHIRE 1634, NEW NORFOLK COUNTY 1635, UPPER NORFOLK COUNTY 1637, NANSEMOND COUNTY 1642.

"The Eastage of Nansemond River from the presentable confluence to the mouth of the said river shall be called the Eastage of Lewis or Virginie Harbor (1642-3) to Mr Charles I. In spite of this it continued to be officially denominated the Lower River by the Surveyor General."

"The Upper County of New Norfolk to begin at the adjoin'd plantation of Rich Hayes and from thence into the waters southerly as aforesaid, and by the mayne river; from thence to extend downe by the maine river into the creeke neare unto the plantation of Etcheson Beck being the first seale to the adjoin'd plantation of Cleyer Payan, including the plantation and all the land betweene the said plantation and the adjoin'd plantation of Etcheson Beck."

"The Lower County of New Norfolk to begin at the adjoin'd plantation of Etcheson Beck"

"which doth belong to the county of the Lower Norfolk, Laws of Virginia March 1642-3 1644 Charles I."

The street lines shown are such as were known to have been in existence and have the names by which they were known. Many of them have partially or completely dried up and some have been entirely obliterated though their former location has sometimes been underwritten by old surveys of property previously bounded upon them.

The roads, shown by the double lines, bear the names by which they were referred to or granted bounded upon them and the date of their original grant. Many of them have been obliterated or have changed so much that they have not been indicated beyond their proved location.

The shore line shown is, with one exception, substantially the same as today, there having been no marked change since 1642-3. The exception is the western branch of the James River, where considerable

erosion took place here near the mouth of the western branch but restraining works were

put in to control this before 1642-3. The bank has been again opened. The shore line is drawn

to show where the old surveyors failed to record the exact location of the shore line as it was then approximately

correct, though it does agree with such measurements as could be obtained from the dimensions of the neighboring grants and the probable stream flow. The channel is virtually unchanged.

The grants shown have been corrected for closure and acreage, plotted to large scale in many cases, adjusted for error, and corrected in accordance with Court decisions in disputed cases. A few performances, other than grants, have been plotted, but the boundaries of these plots and dimensions are not given. Grants known to have been made are not shown for the reason that

proof of their dimensions and location has not been found. Some grants were to "anywhere" or "anywhere in the parish" and the boundaries of these grants are not shown. This is particularly true when the Patent Books were transferred in 1652-4 because many grants were mutilated beyond deciphering. Otherwise, however, those in which the surveyor tried to close (even when he did not succeed) are plotted and the boundaries are shown. These grants that could not be

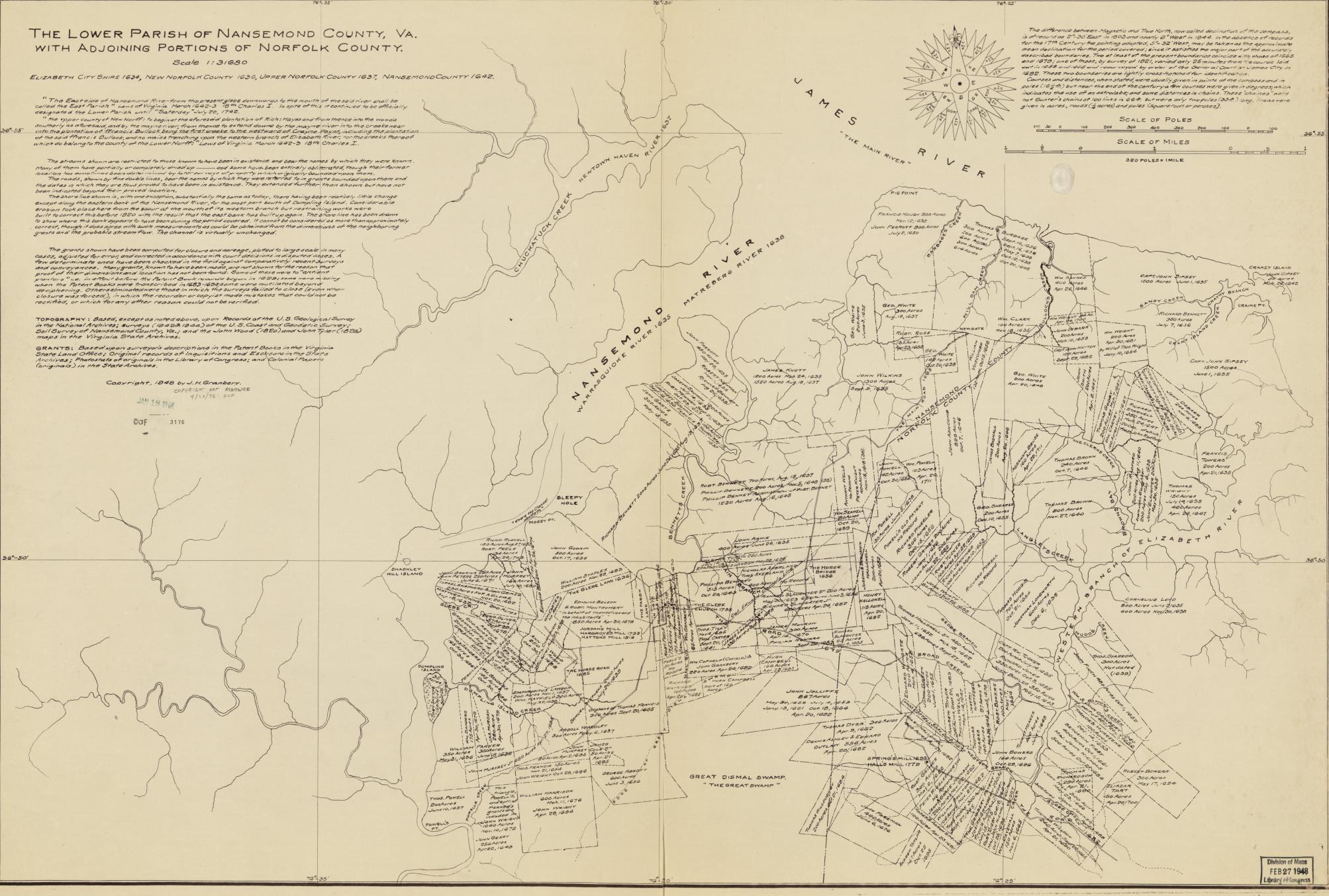
reconstructed, or which for any other reason could not be verified,

TOPOGRAPHY: Based, except as noted above, upon Records of the U.S Geological Survey, the National Archives, Survey (1620-1640) of the U.S Coast and Geodetic Survey, Soil Survey of Nansemond County, Va., and John Ward (1630) and John Tyler (1630) maps in the Virginia State Archives.

GRANTS: Based upon surveyor's descriptions in the Patent Books in the Virginia State Archives, Old Virginia records of acquisitions and Escheats in the State Archives; Photo copy of originals in the Library of Congress; and Colonial Records (originals) in the State Archives.

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The difference between Magnetic and True North, recorded elsewhere, is of about 2° 30' East in 1603 and nearly 3° 32' West in 1644. In the absence of records for the 17th Century the pointings adopted, 3° 32' West, may be taken as the approximate mean declination for this period covered, since it satisfies the important part of the accuracy required. The surveyor's compasses were not very accurate, however, and the survey of 1625 and 1635, one of three, was of 1625, revised early 1635, from a record kept over in 1628 and 1630 and never revised by either of the Surveyors of Courts or James City in 1635 or 1640. The survey of 1635 was made by John Ward, and the survey of 1640 by John Tyler. Courses and distances, when stated, were usually given in points of the compass and in poles (1625) but near the end of the century they began giving greater numbers of degrees, which were probably intended to be in minutes. These "lines" were given in acres, rods, furlongs, and poles (square rods or perches).

SCALE OF POLES
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000
38°55'

SCALE OF MILES
0 1 2 3 4
300 POLES/MILE